



# John Reich Journal

Volume 2/Issue 1

January 1987

# JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
P.O.Box 205 Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and/or relating to early United States silver coins to the editor. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc. Inquiries about specific varieties will be directed to one of the experts in that series. All correspondence should be directed to:

David J. Davis, Editor  
P.O. Box 205  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

## 1986/7 Officers

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Cover Photos. Rosenthal Specimen of the Class III 1804 dollar.  
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"7.2 Other Nominations. A member shall also be duly nominated as a candidate for any office to be filled at an election if proposed by one member and seconded by another at the annual meeting of the Society during which such election is to take place."

There then ensued a discussion as to whether the Society should have life members and, if so, the amount of the contribution a member should make to become a life member. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED that, subject to approval by the members at the next annual meeting of the Society, Section 3.1 of the By-Laws of the Society be amended to read as follows:

"3.1. Any person over the age of 12 years may become a member of the Society by applying for membership and paying the dues or annual contribution for the current year. There shall be two classes of members:

a. A Regular Member shall be a person whose application to become a Regular Member has been accepted by the Society, who pays the dues or annual contribution to the Society on an annual basis, and who has paid such dues or contribution for the current fiscal year.

b. A Life Member shall be any person who is and has been a member in good standing of the Society for at least one year, who has made a contribution or contributions totaling \$250 or more to the Society and whose application to become a Life Member has been approved by the Board of Directors. Life Members shall not be required to pay an annual contribution to the Society."



There ensued a discussion whether the purpose of the Society should include gold coins. It was pointed out that the purpose clause in the By-Laws reads as follows:

"2.1 Purpose. The purpose of the Society is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States silver coins minted before 1838, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins."

Such clause does not exclude the study of gold coins, although it emphasizes silver coins minted before 1838. The clause could be amended by changing the parenthetical phrase to read, "particularly United States silver and gold coins minted before 1840,". Such an amendment would also include the 1838 and 1839 bust quarters and half dollars. It was decided this question should be discussed with the membership at the next annual meeting of the Society.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Allen F. Lovejoy,  
Secretary of the Meeting

# John Reich Journal

Official publication of the  
JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY

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Volume 2	January 1987	No. 1
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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S COMMENTS.....	2
PLAUDITS, PANS, AND PERPLEXING POINTS.....	6
RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS by Richard A. Kurtz.....	7
JUST WALTER by Walter Breen.....	8
A NEW 1801 HALF DIME by Jules Reiver.....	9
"THE 1834 "3 OVER INVERTED 3" HALF DIME by Michael M. Hall.....	12
SOME OBSERVATIONS ON BUST DIMES (1809 - 1837) by Jim Koenings.....	13
CLASHMARKS ON LETTERED EDGE CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS by Edgar E. Souders.....	15
A LETTER TO KAGIN'S by Stew Witham.....	18
1796 B-4a DOLLAR REVISITED by Michael M. Hall.....	19
THE 1799 DOLLAR B-22 by David Krofta.....	20
FROM COPPER TO SILVER VIA DIE VARIETIES by Douglas Pryor.....	21
BUST DOLLARS; AN UPDATE FOR 1796 by Doug Winter.....	22
THE ROSENTHAL CLASS III 1804 DOLLAR.....	25
A REPORT ON SOME HALF DIMES AND DIMES by David Hensley.....	26
ATTRIBUTING 1827 HALF DOLLARS.....	29
MEMBER'S MARKETPLACE.....	36

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Let me repeat what I have said before. The interest and support for JRCS has been very gratifying. You have not only provided enough material for four issues of the Journal, you have been equally generous with your financial assistance. The officers of JRCS wish to thank all of our benefactors who made extra donations, and especially Sheridan Downey, III, Allen F. Lovejoy, Harvey Samuels, Jr. and Anthony Terranova for their very generous contributions.

The competition for most enjoyed article in 1986 was a real horse race. As the votes were coming in, it was evident that the winner would be either **BUST HALF DOLLAR RARITY RATINGS 1807 - 1836**, by the Bust Half Nut Club or **1986 MARKET PRICES OF CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS, 1807-1839**, by Sheridan Downey, III. The lead changed hands almost daily, but in the end RARITY RATINGS nosed out the latter by one vote, 26 to 25. The third and fourth highest vote getters were **THE FIRST DIME**, by Allen F. Lovejoy (15 votes) and **VARIETIES OF EARLY U.S. SILVER COINS**, by Jules Reiver (12 votes). **SOME THOUGHTS ON HALF DOLLARS** and **"CABINET FRICTION" vs. CIRCULATION WEAR**, by Sheridan Downey, III (11 votes) were tied for fifth. Close on their heels was **REDISCOVERY OF THE "OVERSIZE" HALF DIME OF 1833**, by James Skwarek and **BUST DOLLARS: AN UPDATE FOR 1795** by Douglas A. Winters, both with 10 votes. It is interesting to note that every article got one or more votes and, almost without exception, none of the authors voted. If the 23% who voted are representative of the rest of the membership, there is interest in a broad range of topics. I just wonder about one member who voted for ten articles (they weren't tallied). Several members said they couldn't narrow their choices down to three and/or lost count and voted for four articles.

My congratulations and thanks to all of our authors, each of you is equally deserving of the membership's praise.

Here is the first issue of 1987, it is a keeper. 36 pages and several new authors. The May issue is next and I need your manuscripts, comments, letters, want ads, for sales, etc. by April 29th. That will give procrastinators two weeks after they take care of "Uncle Sam" and the IRS.



A welcome to all of our first time readers. The only back issue of the JR Journal still available is Vol.1 No.2. To order copies send \$3.50 to the Society. For our literature collectors, there were 328 copies printed of Vol.1 No.3 and it is unlikely that there will ever be more than 275 complete sets of original Journals assembled. It wasn't our intention to create a rarity, we just were not sure what kind of a reception the Journal would get. Maybe we could have printed in larger quantities, but I was reluctant to store a lot of extras. Is there anyone who would like to start photocopying Vol.1 No.s 1 and 3? I am getting a lot of requests for them.

One of the coins on display at the American Numismatic Society 1986 Conference of the America's Coinage (COAC) was the Rosenthal specimen of the famous 1804 dollar. This Class III dollar was acquired in 1978 from the Chase Manhattan Bank Money Collection through a special loan/gift arrangement. The earlier history of the coin is told through the courtesy of the Whitman Publishing Co. on page 25. This is page 136 from the book, The Fantastic 1804 Dollar by Eric P. Newman and Kenneth E. Bressett. The A.N.S. was gracious enough to provide photos of the coin for the covers of the 1987 Journals.

While in New York City, for the 1986 COAC, the Board of Directors of JRCS met briefly to discuss future directions for the Society. The minutes of the meeting are enclosed. Please note the proposed bylaws changes and other items to be brought before the membership at the annual meeting in Atlanta. If you have any thoughts, pro or con, on these changes send them in for publication, especially if you can't make it to the A.N.A. convention.

In editing this and the prior Journals I have been reluctant to do very much rewriting. Other than some grammar corrections, changing some terminology for ease in understanding, and correcting some errors, most articles are printed as submitted. Not having an English major is part of it. The other reason is I am not about to hold myself up as the expert. I will gladly defer to the other experts and throw in my opinion only when I feel I can add something.

I am trying to hone my writing skills and in that vein I

attended a one day newsletter writing seminar on November 25, 1986. One half of the fee (\$120) was approved by the Board of Directors and I appreciate their support. The emphasis was primarily on style and format. We were told to adhere to a style and edit for consistency to that style. I plan to use that dictum very carefully. I enjoy the variety in our writers and hope you feel that way also.

As far as format goes, I thought I would experiment a little and let you judge the results. There are some limitations as I intend to continue composing on my computer to minimize typesetting and printing costs.

Some of the suggestions are ragged right format, see all pages, except 8 and 21. Use of columns (this was highly recommended, even with our small page size), see page 20. Use of complimentary typefaces, see page 12. Left justified text and headings, see page 13. Use of headings for paragraphs, see page 9. Let me know which, if any, of the changes you like, and those you don't.

No one submitted a story about the 1986 COAC. As a participant, I didn't have time to write about it myself. Dick Kurtz states my opinion well enough in his letter on page 7. The proceedings of the conference will be published in the spring and it will be a must-own book for all of our members. More information next issue.

While bust half articles drew a lot of votes in the best article survey, the interest in dollars wasn't far behind. Considering the limited number of dollar variety collectors they are a dedicated bunch and are wont to write and express their opinions. John Kroon's article (Vol.1 No.3, page 19) on the 1796 B-4a dollar elicited a second article and some thoughts by Walter Breen. Michael Hall's response starts on page 19. Surely there is yet another article to be written. There must be one of our readers who can furnish obverse and reverse photos of B-4a dollars with and without bifurcated letters in the legends.

Because Walter's letter contains comments on five previous articles I am printing it under the title JUST WALTER, instead of in the letters to the editor section. Look at page 8.



One of the points raised about the 1796 B-4a dollars is a problem suffered by both past and present numismatists and writers i.e., use of proper terminology. When describing a coin struck from a pair of dies, the terms "variety" and "marriage" are used interchangeably and this causes few misunderstandings. It is not a new variety when referring to a coin struck after one or both of the dies has been altered or damaged (lapped, reground, repunched, reengraved, clashed, chipped, cracked, etc.) It is a new die state. Certainly, B-4a is not a new variety. The question is: Are the B-4a dollars Bolender and Breen saw well struck (unbifurcated), or struck from "reground" (to use Walter's term), or lapped dies with less detail to fill?

There are two and one half half dime articles in this issue. Jules starts it out, on page 9, with the new variety (??) of 1801. Bill Fivaz's "Retarded" 1834 half dime gets another look from M.M. Hall on page 12. The half of an article is some comments on half dimes and dimes (page 26) by David Hensley. Some dime observations by Jim Koenings then start on page 13.

Mr. Hensley's article sent me to the 1984 edition (my latest) of the "Red Books" and I was surprised to find an 1827 over 5 dime listed. It said, "2 known" and was unpriced. I am not sure when the listing first appeared, but some research is clearly called for. I have known about the coins referred to, see the inside back cover story.

A late entry to the Journal (page 18) is a copy of a letter Stew Witham sent to Kagin's Numismatic Auctions, Inc. This issue may not reach you before the sale, but I felt it definitely should be published. Comments, anyone???

Ed souders and JRCS #17 provide us with the half dollar articles. Ed talks about "Clashmarks" on page 15 and #17 gives us a handy attribution system for the 49 varieties of 1827 half dollars. The Bust Half Nuts will not want to miss pages 31-34.

Page 21 is where Douglas Pryor tells how he got hooked on die varieties. And Doug Winter's series continues on page 22, with an update on the varieties of 1796 Dollars.

David J. Davis

## PLAUDITS, PANS, AND PERPLEXING POINTS

I thoroughly enjoyed Vol.1 No.3 of the JR Journal. I neglected my work until I had read it completely.

- Christopher Eiben

I have an 1815 Bust Quarter with an "E" counterstamped above the head on the obverse. Is there any significance in this "E"? Was it added to the coin at the mint? I would appreciate any information you might have on this matter.

- William L. Hase



Congratulations on the success of the JRC Society....seems off to a great start and the JR Journal is certainly interesting. I have been enjoying it, and E. Dosier and I have had some good conversations stimulated by articles there.

- Henry Hilgard

While at a coin shop in Western Washington, I came across a nice AU 1821 JR-6 bust dime. It had the following die cracks not listed in the book Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837:

Obverse: Faint die crack (need a magnifying glass to see it well) begins in the hair under the I of LIBERTY and goes straight down and ends left of the hair curl above the clasp.

Reverse: This die crack can be seen with the naked eye. It begins at C1, goes through A3 and the top two arrowheads. It ends at the bottom of the center arrowhead.

- Scott G. Grieb

Ed Souders, my 1821 O-106 EF-40 half dollar has three reverse characteristics not mentioned in the Overton book.

1. A patch of tiny die lumps and ridges under the eagle's head, which appears to be the result of a rusted die.

2. A small, hornlike projection from the left edge of the tail feathers.

3. The right (top) angle of the N in UNITED is more than half filled. It can easily be seen with the naked eye.

Do you have knowledge of any other specimens of this date or variety which exhibit the filled N?

- John S. Gomer



## RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

A couple of thoughts that may be relevant to other JRCS members.

First, those who missed the Conference on the America's Coinage (A.N.S., November 1,2, 1986), especially those living close to New York City, also missed the boat. It was a numismatic event as well as a learning experience of great interest. I am looking forward to receiving the written summary of the conference. Not to be overlooked is the fact that several JRCS members presented papers, both on early silver and Seated Liberty coinage. They did an excellent job.

Next, after reviewing all the articles in the first three issues of the John Reich Journal, I still cannot make up my mind on the three best ones. I liked them all.

A question arose at COAC about the rather crude, pointed nines on the 1796 JR-1 dime and the 1809 dime dates. Is it possible that these are inverted sixes pressed into service because nine punches were not available? The goal was to turn out coinage, and we all know that other considerations were often subordinated to that goal. Perhaps a more astute student of the early coinage could respond to that question.

Finally, some comments about Mr. Souders' interesting article on "filled" letters on 1829-30 half dollars (Vol.1 No.3, page 16). Mr. Souders did not mention that 1828 Overton-119 (Reverse-Q) has A2 and A3 filled. This is also Reverse-H in 1829, O-111. Overton mentioned this in the body of his descriptions of the two varieties, but did not highlight them even though this is diagnostic for the 1828. This could give some additional clues on emission sequence. Also, 1829 O-118 shares the same Reverse-N with O-117 mentioned in the article, but Overton indicated that A2 may not be filled. That also may alter our thinking on which die marriage was struck first, assuming that Mr. Souders explanation of "filled" letters is correct.

In summary, Volume 1, No.'s 1, 2 and 3 are all numismatic home runs. Keep up the good work!

Richard A. Kurtz



## JUST WALTER

In the second issue of JR Journal, Jules Reiver says there are two varieties of the 1836 reeded edge half dollar. During the last 30 odd years, all I have seen (Proofs and Uncs.) are from a single pair of dies, with reverse doubling on 50 CENTS; this die does not recur in 1837. The second variety is most likely a great rarity. Jules, will you please furnish details?

In the 3rd issue, the 1796 Bolender-4a dollar (about which John T. Kroon wrote) is not nearly so rare as Bolender believed. As early as 1955 I had located over a dozen; after the figure exceeded 30 odd I stopped counting new ones. My impression is that over 10% of surviving B-4's would qualify as "B-4a," but most go without attribution, or at best are sold as "B-4," --e.g. 1975 ANA:827-8. "B-4a" is, of course, a lapped die state of the obverse: later die states show a die crack through ST.

On Jules's remarks about the 1797 dollar reverses: There are two major die-linked groups in the emission sequence. The earlier includes, in this order, Bolender 13, 15, 4, 3, 1, 2, 18, 19; the later, in this order, B-16, 23, 12, 11, 7, 5, 10, 6, 17. (Most likely the varieties B-8, 9, 22, 14, 21 came between these groups.) The reverse of B-16 was reground, making the berries smaller as they appear on B-23; then it was reground again for use with the B-12 obverse. The earliest made reverses (not necessarily the earliest used) had a "U" punch with sloping serifs. This promptly broke and was on some dies corrected by hand; it was then replaced by a new "U" punch with bar serifs.

On Bill Bugert's 1825/4/3 Browning-3 quarter: I show the following die states:

I. Perfect dies.

II. Faint crack, 2nd to 5th stars.

III. Tiny rim break above the 7th star. "J.H. South":469 (Stack's, 1951.)

IV. Very small rim breaks above the 4th and 5th stars.

V. Heavy crack, rim between UN through bases of NITE and upright of D to rim. "Anderson Dupont":1801, Miles:897, Speir Estate Sale:19, 1975 ANA:359, Brown Library:197. Very rare.

see WALTER, page 34

## A NEW 1801 HALF DIME

Dr. Eric Gutscher, of Flint, Michigan, has discovered a new variety of 1801 half dime. This is his second discovery, the first being the 1830 V-13 half dime.

In his description of the 1801 half dime, Harold P. Newlin, in his 1883 book, A Classification of the Early Half Dimes of the United States, says "I have noticed no varieties. Specimens can be readily obtained in fair condition, but I have never seen an uncirculated one, nor do I believe one exists in the Numismatic World." He includes a beautiful picture of an 1801 V-1 with a die crack at the point of the bust.

Daniel W. Valentine, in A.N.S. Monograph No.48, titled THE UNITED STATES HALF DIMES, issued in 1931, lists two varieties of this date. His description of No. 1 is, "very similar to No.1 of 1800, but the first 1 of date touches curl, and the numerals are smaller." He also lists 1A, with flaws between the face and the stars on the right. He then lists No. 2, "Similar to No.1, but die break under bust at 1 and 8 of date which almost obliterates these two figures." Valentine includes a plate of No.1, but not of No. 2.

**"About twenty-five years ago I bought my first 1801 half dime, for \$2.00."**

About 25 years ago a local dealer brought me some coins for sale. One was the 1801 half dime pictured to the right. I told him it was too "beat up", and that, although I wanted an 1801 half dime, I did not want this one. He said, "It's only two dollars, and you can throw it away if you improve it." So I took it. I always was a patsy for a coin I didn't have.



V-2



Back in those days there was an informal gathering of coin collectors, almost every Saturday morning, at Lester Merkin's shop in New York. Many of the local numismatists would drop in, and I can remember Henry Gruenthal, Doug Smith, and Lou Helfenstein, among others. Walter Breen was working with Lester, then, and I showed him the junk half 1801 half dime I had bought. It certainly looked like Valentine's description of V-2, but a later die state, with three die cracks. Remember that there was no plate of a V-2, the only variety pictured was the V-1. Walter said it was the latest die state he had seen, and took notes about the coin.

**"Jules, those die cracks are beautiful,  
you shouldn't sell this coin."**

Later, I acquired a better grade 1801. Since I was only trying to complete a date set in those days, I tried to sell the junk coin to George Ramont. I told him it would be priced at the \$2.00 it sold for originally. George said, "Jules, those die cracks are beautiful, you shouldn't sell this coin." And I didn't. When I started a variety collection, 1801 was complete, with both varieties present.



V-1

Years passed, and I was happy with my 1801 V-1 and V-2 half dimes. That is, until Eric sent pictures of the 1801 half dime he had purchased in Stack's June 18, 1986 auction, as Lot 761. He had compared it with the pictures in the Quarterman reprint of Valentine, and said it matched neither.

Eric mailed me the coin, and I thoroughly checked it against the two 1801's I had. Eric was right, his piece is different. The spacing of the stars is not the same. On Valentine-1, star 7 is much closer to star 6 than to the L in LIBERTY. On the V-3 coin, pictured on the next page, the right star 7 is almost equidistant between star 6 and the L. The letters LIB are also much farther apart on V-1 than they are on the new coin.



My V-2 has three die cracks, one at 18, one at LIB, and the third at the bust. The excellent picture in Newlin shows the die crack at the bust, as does the added V-2 picture in the Quarterman reprint of Valentine. This is an indication that V-2 and V-1 may really be different states of the same die. The reverses of all three coins are the same.

**"Therefore, V-3 is a new variety."**



V-3

The die cracks on V-2 and V-3 are so different that they can not be from the same dies. Therefore, V-3 is a new variety. What has yet to be resolved is the die crack, under the bust, that is common between the Newlin plate coin and the V-2 photograph in the Valentine reprint.

Sharp eyed variety collectors will notice that the stars look slightly different in my coins labeled V-1 and V-2. I attribute this to die lapping, making the stars smaller, and increasing distances between the devices.

My congratulations to Dr. Gutscher for his sharp eyes. If anyone has anything to add, or any 1801's to shed some more light on the problem, please contact me. I would particularly like to see some additional specimens of V-2. I want to clear up the uncertainty about whether V-1 and V-2 are die states of one die, or two different dies.

**Jules Reiver**  
1802 Forrest Road  
Wilmington, DE 19810  
(302) 475 5636

## THE 1834 "3 OVER INVERTED 3" HALF DIME

he first 1834 "3 over inverted 3" half dime I purchased was from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, from their Rare Coin Review, #22, 1975. In their offering, Bowers referred to them "...the three first punched upside-down and backwards, an interesting variety." Three coins were listed, grading AU, BU and Choice BU. Since then I have owned two more of this interesting variety and have seen three others (all of the latter being unattributed by their owners).

In response to the Bill Fivaz' article on "The Retarded 1834 Half Dime" (Vol.1 No.3, page 32), I agree that the most notable thing about the variety is that the date has a "3 over inverted 3." However, Valentine did not even mention this fact in his book - nor was it mentioned, to my knowledge, in the reprint. The coin, from the other identifying aspects on the obverse, most notably the lower loop of the 8 being partially filled (as Bill's excellent photo shows) and on the reverse, the stem touching the C in 5 C., is simply a Valentine-5 variety.

Galen Allen's comment, in the last issue of the Journal (Vol.1 No.3, page 5), about the 4 in the date being double punched was new to me and I had not noticed it before. Apparently this is so, to a small extent, on my two specimens. The right half of the base and the bottom left of the upper (slanted) portion of the 4 appear to be recut or double punched. You need at least a 10X magnifier to see it.

Jules Reiver, in his Variety Identification Manual for United States Half Dimes, 1794-1837, does not mention the "3 over inverted 3" in his V-5 listing either. Mr. Reiver does assign a Rarity-2 rating (not so common) to this variety.

Doug Winter, in Heritage's CVI Feb-Mar, 1984 issue on half dimes, is the first person I have read who actually comes out and says that Valentine-5 is the "3 over inverted 3" variety. I hope, for everyone's benefit, that Doug will include the portion of his article covering half dime issues from 1794 through 1837 in some future JR Journal. (In the article Doug also wrote on half dimes of the 1837-1873 Seated Liberty type, for Gobrecht enthusiasts.)

see INVERTED 3, page 35



## SOME OBSERVATIONS ON BUST DIMES (1809 - 1837)

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During the late 1960's, I collected bust dimes by variety as listed in the "Red Book." At the time there were 30 varieties listed. At one time I had all of them except for the year 1822. Apparently I became tired of them and sold them in 1971. I wonder which varieties I sold?

In October 1984, at the Long Beach Coin Show, I noticed three Bust Dimes, 1811, 1814, and 1824, each with a hole in it. The dealer sold them to me for a modest price. Little did I know that this purchase would turn my coin collecting interests completely around. Prior to that purchase, I collected half cents by variety.

At the next coin show, I purchased four or five more bust dimes in low grade and decided to see how inexpensive a set of "Red Book" varieties I could complete. Then I noticed that the "Red Book" listed only one variety for the year 1835. I started to compare my 1835 with other 1835 dimes and noticed they were different. I then asked several dealers at coin shows if they knew of a book on Bust Dimes. One dealer mentioned that he had seen a copy of United States Dimes by A. Kosoff. So I sent away for a copy (reprint). I was very disappointed with it when it arrived. My real answer for bust dime varieties came in the January 9, 1985 issue of "Coin World" when they announced the new book Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837.

Since then, I have found 114 out of the 122 known varieties of Capped Bust Dimes. The eight varieties that I still need are:

1820 JR-12	1824 JR-2	1829 JR-8	1829 JR-10
1821 JR-2	1827 JR-10	1829 JR-10	1831 JR-2

Here are some of the observations I have made over the last two years:

1. 1811 seems to be more scarce than the year 1809.
2. All 1814 dimes without a period after 10C. seem to be more scarce than their R-3 rating would indicate.
3. 1821 JR-3 is not a R-6 coin.



4. The most common 1821 small date variety appears to be JR-9, which in all cases seems to have a much sharper strike on it's reverse.
5. 1827 JR-1 seems to be more scarce than it's R-2 rating. This may be caused by the listing in the "Red Book" of 1827, 7 over 5 variety.
6. The 1830/29 varieties are more common than the "Red Book" prices would indicate. On the JR-4 variety, the late die state has a full cud connecting the top of the letter M in AMERICA to the rim. I have seen one earlier state in MS-63 with a die crack running from the rim to the left top of the M and another crack running from the right top of the M to the rim.
7. 1831 JR-2 appears to be rarer than it's R-3 rating.
8. 1833 JR-1 seems to be more common than it's R-3 rating. Most low grade specimens are weakly struck over UNITED.
9. Most low grade specimens with the reverse letters TED successively higher (1834 JR-3, 1833 JR-7, 1833 JR-9 and 1833 JR-10) have a stronger obverse strike. The reverse is especially weak over STATES OF.
10. The large D in legend JR-2 variety of 1834 is more common than the R-5 rating indicates. All of the circulated specimens I have seen have a much stronger strike on the obverse. If you see an 1834 dime advertised as VF-20/F-12 or F-15/VG-8, it is probably an 1834 JR-2.
11. Most circulated specimens of 1836 JR-1 have a stronger strike on the reverse.

If you agree or disagree with my observations, I would like to hear from you. I would also like to hear from you if you have similar observations about other Bust Dime varieties. I can be reached at:

1824 12th Street #3  
Riverside, CA 92507

If anyone has one of the eight varieties that I need, for sale or trade, I would like to hear from you.

Jim Koenings

## CLASHMARKS ON LETTERED EDGE CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS

One intriguing and little studied area of the Capped Bust half dollar series comes to us in the form of defects-- oftentimes referred to as "clashmarks"--on the struck halves. Newer collectors, upon seeing their first heavily clashmarked half, frequently view the strange lines with uncertainty, wondering how and why such a thing could come about.

What exactly are clashmarks? Do they always appear in the same location(s)? Are certain areas of halves more prone to clashmarks than other areas? Do certain dates exhibit more clashmarked varieties than other dates? These and other important questions can be answered through a study of clashed dies and the resultant clashmarked halves.

Clashed dies are defined as obverse and reverse dies which have come together during the striking stage without an intervening planchet between them. Upon clashing, most often the softer of the two dies will carry lines or marks from the devices of the hardest die. Then too, if both dies are equal in steel strength, a dual transfer of images may result. Thus, mirror image clashmarks, on the die(s), will appear on halves produced thereafter.

In M. L. Beistle's tome, A Register of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-Varieties, Beistle referred to what we now call clashmarks, as "AKCIDEFFECTS"--meaning an accidental die defect. At this point in history, the line of thinking was correct; but Beistle's terminology was never widely accepted. Still earlier, many studied numismatists incorrectly referred to clashmarks as "suction marks"; thought to have been created by suction when the dies parted from the planchet following the compression of the striking process. However, to quote the eminent Walter Breen: "Dies do not suck!" At any rate, clashmarks today are more properly identified and better understood.

It is important to remember that clashmarks are variable factors that may or may not be present on a particular variety--due to die state or the lapping process. Therefore, no one can truly categorize each and every clashmarked specimen by date or variety. However, a general, sort of,

classification can be stated as clashmarks most often appear on halves dated from 1808 through 1819, with some of the most classic examples appearing on halves dated 1813 and 1814.

For example, for the year of 1813, 0-101, 107 and 110 often display heavy obverse/reverse clashmarks. In 1814, 0-101 (14/13), often displays heavy obverse/reverse clashmarks, while 0-102 many times displays some of the letters from Liberty's headband, which have been clashmarked under the shield lines on the reverse. The 0-103 is often heavily clashmarked, and the 0-105 and 106 show the popular "three bars" below Liberty's ear clashmark; a direct result of the vertical shield lines, from the reverse die.

In studying these examples, it is apparent the clashmarks do indeed have a pattern to which they do appear. Other studied pattern clashmarks of obverse and reverse are listed below:

#### General Obverse

- A. A pattern clash frequently appears in the field area just above the date numerals on many halves. This clashmark is in the form of an upside-down, mirror image of parts of the scroll--from the reverse die.
- B. The mirror image pattern clashmark of the eagle's left wing (your left) can often be seen upside-down in the left field, in front of the Liberty portrait.
- C. To a lesser degree, the right wing of the eagle pattern clashmark will sometimes appear in mirror image form in the field area to the right of the Liberty Cap, ribbon ends and hair curls. NOTE: Rarely will you see the olive leaves, arrowheads or legend lettering clashmarked from reverse to obverse.

#### General Reverse

- A. The mirror image clashmark, of the slope of Liberty's bust, is frequently observed in the field area from the eagles left wing--slanting up and left--to the bottom of the scroll. This particular clashmark is sometimes mistaken for a die crack, especially on lower grade Capped Bust specimens.



- B. An oblong, "V-like" clashmark, is often observed directly below the scroll, in the field, below "US" of "PLURIBUS" and "U" of "UNUM". This defect is from the obverse Liberty device outline--directly below the drapery clasp.
- C. To a lesser extent, at times, a clashmark appears in the field area, from the right corner of the scroll to the top of the eagle's right wing--again attributable to the Liberty device outline. Only on rare occasion does a clashmark appear in the field area, from below the eagle's left wing, to the tail feathers, or the right wing to the arrowheads. Apparently, the design of the obverse central device (in conjunction with its placement and the die's shape), kept this area from clashing regularly on the reverse die. Also, rarely does the top fold of the Liberty Cap appear clashmarked in the field area above the 50 C. denomination

Hence, in this short study, we have established that clashmarks, as a rule, appear in the same areas regardless of date or variety. Also, we now know that certain clashmarks are more predominate than others; and we have even determined that, generally, clashmarks appear on certain dates more so than others. You will do well to keep these thoughts and specific areas in mind whenever you are studying a clashmarked specimen. Still, one more factor should be mentioned simply because it is the only exception to the pattern clashmark placement statement.

If the dies were improperly set up in the screwpress--from the normal obverse/reverse 180 degree rotation relation, and then the dies accidentally clashed--the results are that all clashmark lines will appear in totally different areas! So, can these new and different areas be patterned and identified? Yes, they certainly can be! But, the details regarding the rare occurrence will have to wait for a future discussion on the interesting study of clashmarks on Capped Bust half dollars.

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## Unique 1832 Bust Half Dollar on Brazil Copper Coin

Re; Lot 2217, (Kagin's Long Beach) Sale of February  
12-14, 1987.

Gentlemen,

This lot 1st appeared in the Numismatist, February 1934, page 118, from the H.D. Gibbs Collection. The next appearance (to me) was from RARCOA in October 1973 - I had a chance to study it at length, in my home, and declare the impression of Obverse and Reverse from COUNTERFEIT dies.

The piece did not match any known silver 1832 (half dollar) die, obverse or reverse. The characteristics of the letters, digits, bust, stars (and other devices) were not of the mint. I pronounced the piece - COUNTERFEIT.

I (and quite a few other Bust Half Nut Collectors saw it and agreed.....Editor) next saw the piece at the A.N.A. in Miami Beach 1974 - where Don Taxay bought it for \$1000 and sold it to Art Kagin for \$1350. It was still COUNTERFEIT - Don T. was upset that he had erred but nothing happened.

The next appearance A.N.A. Atlanta 1977, lot 2070 - still COUNTERFEIT. Still it "sold for" (?) \$2000 - no floor bid.

The RARCOA piece

The 1974 A.N.A. piece

The 1977 A.N.A. piece

All COUNTERFEIT

I am sure by plate and description your February Sale piece is the same.

Please - end its misery - eliminate a buyer's suffering and throw it away.

Sincerely,

Stew Witham

[Kagin's response - G. Fuld called; recognized it was a COUNTERFEIT - wanted Stew's OK on selling the piece to the floor after announcing it was COUNTERFEIT.]

## 1796 B-4a DOLLAR REVISITED

In response to Mr. Kroon's article (Vol.1 No.3, page 19) on the 1796 B-4a dollar, I once looked for this elusive "variety." What I have seen called B-4a's haven't been.

I examined two specimens which were offered as B-4a's. One was from Heritage Rare Coin Galleries, about two years ago, and one was from a Colorado dealer. Of the two pieces the coin from the latter dealer came closer to being a B-4a, but, there was some bifurcation on letters BER on the obverse, and the reverse had twelve letters bifurcated. The Heritage specimen had even more bifurcation on the obverse and reverse.

The picture of Lot 1605 in Heritage's 1985 A.N.A. sale (obverse only shown in the catalogue) indicated that all the letters of LIBERTY, with the possible exception of the R are bifurcated.

RARCOA states that its Auction '86 Lot 726 corresponds to a B-4a, but the pictures show that it is not. All the letters of LIBERTY are bifurcated, and on the reverse NITED, Al, F, MERI and A3 are strongly notched.

From what I have seen there seems to be some difficulty in attributing a so called B-4a dollar.

Ironically, according to one of Heritage's "The Forum" articles by Mark Van Winkle:

"In reality, bifurcation is not a product of engraving at all. It is caused by the planchet being cut too small for the collar. In some cases, though less typically, the planchets were the correct size, but the collar was oversized. Here is what happens: At the instant the blank planchet is struck by the dies, the metal heats and flows outward. This creates the 'flow lines' that can often be seen on Mint State and A.U. coins. The metal from the planchet that has just filled the indentations in the die will be held in place wherever there is an indentation in the die close enough to the base of the letter to

see 1796 B-4a, page 35



## THE 1799 DOLLAR B-22

The 1799 B-22 Bust Dollar is an interesting variety. Bolender rated it as R-6, extremely rare.

I have collected this variety since 1974. I have acquired 22 1799 B-2's in the last 12 years. This variety is very easy to identify, having been struck from a reverse die that was broken from rim to rim, 9:00 o'clock to 3:00 o'clock. In spite of this, two of these coins were attributed as B-18's. It is most often found in VF condition.



*Photo by J. Reiver*

Besides the 22 examples in my collection, I have come across seven others in the last few years. Allowing for

one or two that might be duplicates, this already accounts for about 28 examples of this variety.

The finest known, (by me), is Lot 1818, February 1986, Coin Galleries, at about Extremely Fine. There have been a couple of others that were graded full EF. This is an interesting variety to grade. The reverse is always sharp, because the die saw little use. The obverse is always weak in the center, because of the reverse die failure.

With continued die use, a piece of the reverse die, along the die crack, broke away near the rim, at 9:00 o'clock. Still later, we have what I would call B-22a, when the obverse die developed three interconnecting cracks up through the date; one between the 1 and 9, and one through the bottom of 799, up toward the bust. The last one goes through the bottom of the 1, terminating between star 1 and the curls. Only four of the 22 have these cracks, with two more having just a start of the cracks.

The trouble with using auction appearances to track rarity is that some coins are  
see 1799 B-22, page 35

## FROM COPPER TO SILVER VIA DIE VARIETIES

Collecting pieces of treasure from the past history of the United States has fascinated me for much of my life. I began collecting at a young age because of the attractiveness of the silver coins in circulation. I also liked filling my piggy bank with the "extra's" from my father and grandfather's pockets. Eventually I put my Whitman folders away and went off to college and then on to the Peace Corps, on the African and Asian continents. While overseas I became interested in the coinage of different countries, so I began an oddball collection of foreign coins.

Upon returning to the United States after a decade overseas I began to renew my interest in numismatics in earnest. I was introduced to Dr. Sheldon's Penny Whimsy along with die varieties and die cracks and their progressions. I still collect the big pennies because their different obverse and reverse marriages fascinate me.

On one rainy afternoon, a coin dealer with whom I'd done a lot of copper business with said he had something I might be interested in. He knew of my weakness for die breaks and cracks. He produced a beautiful 1813 Turban Head half that was circled and crossed by spectacular die cracks. WOW!!!! He later introduced me to Overton's book and loaned it to me. Well, I was hooked on Overton from then on. My dealer friend also had a few early half dimes, dimes and quarters, some with beautiful delicate hairline cracks and some with nice cuds on the rims.

So now, although my silver collection is still small, it is growing after each trip to a coin show or shop. Nice pieces that are in my TBA (to be attributed) are taken out on rainy or cold winter days to be attributed and admired while their history fills my thoughts of Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, the old mint in Philadelphia, John Reich, Boudinot, Voight, Robert Scot, etc.

It is fascinating to put the silver and copper side by side and imagine yourself as a new citizen of the recently born United States of America and to imagine that this is your change after your visit to the market and a stop at the local tavern. You look at the frightful Miss Liberty on the old

see PRYOR, page 34



**BUST DOLLARS; AN UPDATE FOR 1796**  
(continued from Vol.1, No.3)

1796

MINTAGE: (All Kinds): 72,290 (exact mintage breakdown by variety unknown)

- I. Draped Bust; Small Eagle Reverse
  - A. Small Date; Small Letters on Reverse, Three Leaves below each Wing (Bolender-1 and 2)
  - B. Small Date; Large Letters on Reverse
    - 1. Three Leaves below each Wing; no Outer Berry below NI in UNITED (B-4)
    - 2. Two Leaves below each Wing; with Outer Berry below NI in UNITED (B-5)
  - C. Large Date; Small Letters on Reverse (B-5)

Coinage of the Draped Bust Small Eagle Dollars continued through 1796. Production was made extremely difficult, however, by the lack of good steel for making dies, the scarcity of available bullion and a general lack of governmental and public support for the Mint.

A total of five die varieties are known; a sixth, which is still included in the Bolender reference, is doubted to exist. These constitute five separate pieces which could be, conceivably, included in a comprehensive type set of United States coins.

Approximately 1800-2300 1796 Dollars have survived. Of these, nearly 80% are either of the Bolender-4 or B-5 variety. Most are in worn condition. A choice Extremely Fine or About Uncirculated coin is legitimately very scarce. This writer has never seen a truly Uncirculated 1796 Dollar and doubts if more than just a few exist.

Attribution of the varieties is quite easy as the difference in date and letter sizes are significant. Detailed descriptions of the varieties for this year begin on the next page.

### BOLENDER-1

This continues to be one of the most underrated of all early silver type coins. It is, at the very least, a strong R-5. In high grades, B-1 is an extreme rarity with AU coins easily an R-7. The date is spaced 17 96 with the 6 upright in its position. The finest known appears to be 1975 ANA: 821, ex Gilhousen: 1221, Baldenhofer and Robert Coulton Davis (N.Y. Coin and Stamp, 1889): 432. This coin has been graded, by modern standards, AU-50 and AU-55.

### BOLENDER-2

This variety is most accurately called the "Small Even Wide Date." It has the 6 in the date leaning markedly to the right. The reverse is the same as on the last coin. It is far less rare than B-1, but it is still quite scarce; we would estimate its rarity to be approximately High R-4. In choice condition, this variety is extremely rare. The finest pieces to be sold in recent years are Amon Carter: 214 and Bareford: 407, ex Dr. Green (Mehl, 4/29/49): 1978 and Newcomb. The reverse used for this variety was first employed on 1795 B-14. It was also used to strike 1797 B-2 and 1798 B-2.

### BOLENDER-3

This variety is still a source of great controversy among specialists. Despite a few recent auction appearances (all were, incidentally, mistakes), it is probable that no such variety exists. The ultimate source of this error must rest with either Haseltine or J. Colvin Randall (with an assist in perpetration from Bolender). It is very unlikely that only one example of this variety would have been discovered, after fairly intensive searching, over nearly a century.

### BOLENDER-4

This is the commonest variety of 1796 Silver Dollar. It is a R-3 overall, but it is extremely rare in high grades. Despite Bolender's claim to the contrary, many early strikes do not have heavily bifurcated letters. Because of this description, many examples have either been misattributed or erroneously reported as "new varieties." The B-4a subvariety is a bit rarer and probably merits an R-6 overall. Interestingly, most of the high grade examples of this die



variety are of this subvariety. A few pieces have a die defect from the wreath to the right side of the M in AMERICA to the wingtip. The finest known specimens for this variety include Kagin's 315th Sale, Lot 357, Austin: 11 and Garrett II: 682. AU's are a High R-7, and the only two Mint State pieces we have ever heard reports of are the pair listed in Walter Breen's "Encyclopedia of United States Proof Coins" as Prooflike possible presentation pieces.

#### BOLENDER-5

This is the second commonest 1796 Dollar, but it is still rather scarce; we estimate it to be a full R-4 overall. Stars two and three are invariably found weakly impressed, and many pieces are not sharply struck at their centers; a few sharp impressions are, however, known. Die States unknown to Bolender have been discovered. These primarily involve the size of the diagnostic reverse "die lump" at the top of the right side of the I in AMERICA. No fully Mint State pieces can be accounted for by this author. The few AU's we can verify include Stack's Spring 1978 Sale: 715, Terrell: 897 and Garrett II: 683.

#### BOLENDER-6

Despite intensive searching, only two or so examples of this extremely rare variety are currently known to exist. The famous discovery piece, which was found by Breen around 1954, is now in the possession of a Delaware collector; it is ex 1975 ANA: 823, Ostheimer, Austin and Breen. The second piece is in another collection. The familiar "heavy vertical break" on the reverse begins at 1:00, and it runs to the O in OF, the wreath below this word, the wingtip and the wreath above IC in AMERICA. It terminates at a denticle to the left of this letter. On both known specimens, the area to the left of the die break is much weaker than the area to the right of the break. Its rarity is attributable to the almost immediate failure of the reverse die.

Doug Winter



Photograph courtesy of Chase Manhattan Bank Museum of Moneys of the World

*Very fine condition; appears to have been in circulation. Edge lettering blundered and doubled in places. The 0 in date aligned with the second T in STATES.*

A freed slave was said to have given this coin to his son who held it for over forty years. W. Julius Driefus of Alexandria purchased it for \$100 in 1893 and sent it to Messrs. Joseph Rosenthal’s Sons (Isaac Rosenthal), scrap iron dealers of Philadelphia, in payment of a debt of \$500.

James W. Ellsworth purchased it from them through O. C. Bosbyshell, Superintendent of the Mint, accompanied by a letter attesting as to its genuineness and so endorsed by R. A. McClure, Curator, and Charles E. Barber, Engraver, in 1894. Ellsworth kept the coin until March, 1923, when Wayte Raymond purchased his entire collection.

When Wayte Raymond split up this collection, the Rosenthal dollar was consigned to Gutttag Brothers and purchased by Farran Zerbe in 1924; it went into the Chase National Bank collection with the Zerbe collection purchased by them in 1929. It is now the property of the Chase Manhattan Museum of Moneys of the World.

W. Julius Driefus .....	1893
Isaac Rosenthal .....	1893–1894
James Ellsworth .....	1894–1923
Wayte Raymond .....	1923–1925
Farran Zerbe .....	1925–1929
Chase Manhattan Bank	
(formerly Chase National Bank) .....	1929—present owner



## A REPORT ON SOME HALF DIMES AND DIMES

These beautiful little coins, so rich in variety, and so imbued with the lifeblood of history, have long been a favorite area of numismatics for me. It has been even more gratifying since the publication of the Dime Book.

I would just like to report on some of the rarer varieties I have located, and then elaborate on some more potentially important finds.

1. 1835 Half Dime. V-7. A virtually choice EF/AU coin which differs from Valentine's text in only one way: A defective top loop is present on only one S in STATES. Will Neil's description of V-7 further on in the book, however, matches this specimen "to a T."
2. 1832 Half Dime. V-1. Does not have break in T3. Cl over an inverted C. Choice VF/EF.
3. 1837 Half Dime, Large 5. Obverse of V-3, Reverse unlike anything listed in Valentine. The scroll begins in a different position. Cl very boldly recut. There is also strong recutting on R1, though not nearly as blatant as Cl. Left foot of N evidences having first been cut too low, then corrected. (This appeared to be the third use of the new reverse discovered, in 1975, by John McCloskey. It is known to have been married to the obverses of V-1 and V-2. Alas, after I looked at the coin, the obverse proved to be V-1 and he has what is now called V-4, in J. Reiver's new book. - Editor.)
4. 1825 Dime. JR-5, in the VG-Fine range. Early die state specimen, with the recut 5.
5. 1834 Dime. JR-2. I was very pleased when I learned that this VF old dime, purchased a few years ago because I was intrigued by the large break running through the stars, turned out to be a rare one. It has attractive grey toning.
6. 1832 Dime. JR-2. This specimen is sharp. The obverse is EF, and the reverse is stunningly beautiful. It's like beholding a MS-65. A couple of minute marks, hardly

visible to the naked eye, and some evidence of some very slight rubbing make it more like AU-58. The coin has attractive toning.

The obverse die is bulged in the field between Liberty's bust and chin. The rust marks on the cap over E are present, as are those in the field over the date. The reverse is another story for this variety. Whereas in the Dime Book no reverse defects are reported, this particular example has a myriad of breaks.

This must be Reverse-B towards the tail end of its marriage with Obverse-2, and just shortly before its pairing with Obverse-3. Those large breaks on this reverse, as shown with JR-3 in the book, are in their very early stages on this piece. All reverse breaks mentioned in the book for JR-3 are present. In addition, there are several very fine cracks between some of the olive leaves and the rim, a couple of leaves and the eagle's wing, and from rim over E1 to top of the T1, continuing to top of I1. Die bulging in field between eagle's wing and olive leaves. Coin has full sharp reeding, with the edge cud to the left of date present.

7. Square Base 2 Dime. Using 10X and 16X loupes, and a magnifying glass, I have looked and looked, turned this thing, and tilted it, every which way, under all different kinds of light, and always tried to be honest with myself, and still, this is what I see.

All of the tilting and turning, and doubt, obviously denotes a specimen in something less than MS-65 preservation. In terms of sharpness, this coin would make VG. However, the piece has sustained some damage; nothing too severe, thankfully, compared to what could have been. There are some rough spots and some digs, and some areas of weakness. The coin is still round, and looks good despite the problems. All things considered, it's really a decent little piece, all the more so because of the challenge it seems to be offering.

At first glance, the coin is almost identical to JR-12. In fact, I believe this specimen shares the same reverse (Rev-I). On the obverse, stars 1-7 are grouped in the same way as on Obverse-8. Stars 8-13 seem more closely squeezed together, especially stars 9/10, 10/11, and 12/13. The 13th star touches the bust.

The date is clear. There is some weakness which obscures the lower half of the 7, and just brushes in to



the area of the 2. The entire 2 is plainly visible, but, under a magnifying glass, there are enough marks and rough surfaces in and around the bases of the numerals to leave things in a state of ambiguity. In fact, at certain times, I've been struck by the impression that I was looking at an overdate. There may be recutting on the base of the 8 (part of the lower loop), part of the upper loop and base of the 2, and there appears to be a loop from a 5 or a 6 under the lower part of the 7. The coin is very worn there, however, and all of this overdate fantasy could be an illusion created by the contact marks, etc.

I am mainly interested in the 2, and to an almost equal extent, the 7 in the date. On this specimen, the 8 and 7 are in just a tiny bit closer to the 2 than on JR-12. The neck of the 2 fails to taper where it meets the base. It tapers somewhat, but nothing like the 2 on JR-12. The neck of this 2 is fat compared to the others. Similarly, both the upright and horizontal parts of the 7 appear thicker, and once again there is little tapering at their junction. This 2 and 7 are unlike any of the others in the Dimes of 1827. The 2 is close in style to that of the 1828 Square Base 2 Half Dollar with the large 8's (as shown in the Redbook).

One engaging possibility: 1827 punched over a mushed-out 1823 obverse, resulting in the 2/2 filling the curl of the base and squaring it, and the 2 and 7 appearing thicker.

The coin should be tested and weighed, as the answer to the riddle might be that it is a contemporary counterfeit. [Upon examination, the coin (which grades BU - Beat Up - to my mind) is the suspected JR-12. Because of the coin's condition it is not hard to see why he imagined what he did. - Editor]

That's about it. Whatever happens, I'll still be out there searching. I have a few other noteworthy coins I am looking forward to reporting in the future. Members who have additional thoughts on any of these Half Dimes and Dimes, or who can help clear up some of these mysteries, are encouraged to contact me. Call anytime, or write. P.O. Box 919, Staten Island, NY 10314. (718) 984-8973.

David Hensley

## ATTRIBUTING 1827 HALF DOLLARS

Attributing coins can be a most enjoyable and rewarding pastime - until someone hands you a particularly tough nut to crack. I'm sure many of you have problem areas within a particular series or have been stymied by a piece that just doesn't fit the description. My own personal horror stories usually contain the phrase "1827 Bust Half."

With 49 die marriages and 2 subvarieties to date, 1827 must be among the most difficult years with which to work. After trying several different methods and techniques, I've worked out a flow chart (see below) that seems to work in a somewhat more orderly manner while still being true to the facts as presented in Al Overton's book. By rearranging the information and presenting it in a different format, principally using the reverse to identify the variety, I believe that the following may be of some use in preventing 1827 attribution phobia.

Those of you with access to a computer may be able to find other ways of orienting this information to avoid the problem of depending on the T-I relationship, which could be called the principal drawback to this chart, in that they are not always available due to weakness of strike.

The intent here is to help with attribution, not write a new book. That project is better left to those who have the time and training for research and who have access to enough material. In fact, rereading the introductory section of the Overton book will help in understanding the measurements used here.

In closing, I'd like to thank Jules Reiver for providing information on the three reverses not pictured in the Overton book, BHNC for their supplement, and wish you all - Good Hunting!

### Flow Chart for 1827 Bust Halves

T - T3, the second T in STATES. I - I3, the I in PLURIBUS.  
A-A - shortest distance between A3, the last A in AMERICA, and the upper arrowhead.  
50C - the closest distance between 0 and C in the denomination  
\*1-\_\_, 7-\_\_, 8-\_\_, 13-\_\_ - diagnostic star positions on Obverse as listed in Overton's book. Also, \*\_\_ - Star #.

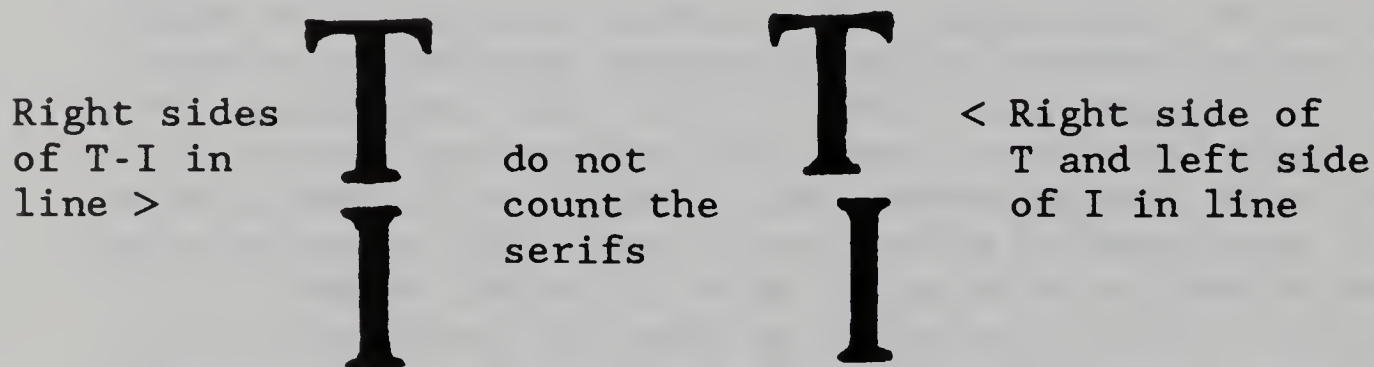


IMPORTANT: If you do not have the Curl Base 2 or the overdate, compare the right sides of T3 and I3.

If the right side of I3 is lined up with or left of the right side of T3, proceed to section III A-E.

If the right side of I3 is further RIGHT then the right side of T3, proceed to section IV A-C.

#### EXAMPLES:



NOTE: The T-I will not always line up exactly as they are not on the same arc.

OBV/REV - Overton #

Curl Base 2

I below left side of T. 29/AH - 146

I centered under right side of T. 29/AB - 147

II. 1827/6 - Traces of 6 visible

Left sides of T-I in line,

A-A = 1/4mm, & 50C = 2mm. 1/A - 101

Right sides of T-I in line. 1/B - 102

Right side of I centered under T,

A-A = 1/2mm, & 50C = 1 1/2mm. 1/C - 103

III. Right side of I3 is lined up with or left of the right side of T3.

A. I is completely left of T. 23/AC - 137

B. I is centered under left side of T.

A-A attached. 16/Q - 121

A-A = 1/2mm or nearly so:

50C = 1 1/4mm and high, jointed I reverse,  
\*8 = UH. 20/V - 128

(Reverse listed above), \*8 = LH. 24/V - 139

50C = 1 1/2mm, large C leans sharply left. 26/AE - 141

50C = 1 3/4mm & very low, lump above scroll at E PL,  
and S in PLURIBUS unfinished at top. 16/S - 123

C. Left sides of T-I in line or right side of I is centered under T.

A-A nearly touch or less than 1/4mm:

50C = 1 1/4mm & low, curved top 5 tipped more to the  
left than 0, \*1-LH, 7-B, 8-UE, 13-LH. 14/O - 118

50C = 1 1/4mm & high, \*1-UH, 7-LE,  
8-LH, 13-UH. 25/AD - 140

(Same as above with obverse die cracks). 25/AD - 140a

50C = 1 1/2mm & high, \*1-C, 7-UH,  
8-UE, 13-LH. 5/G - 107

50C = 1 1/2mm & low, \*1-LE, 7-B, 8-UE, 13-LE, usually  
little or no milling & stars drawn to edge. 16/R - 122

(Reverse listed above), \*1-LH, 7-B,  
8-LH, 13-LH. 24/R - 138

A-A = 1/2mm:

50C = 1 1/2mm & low, with a large C. 14/C - 119

50C = 2mm, with C higher than 50. 13/N - 117

D. I centered under T or nearly so.

A-A approximately 1/4mm:

50C = 1 1/2mm, REV\_die lump in top of F in OF,  
OBV\_dot above inner point of \*1. 5/H - 108



50C 1 1/2mm, jointed L in PLURIBUS. 20/W - 129

50C = 1 3/4mm & high, 5 higher than 0 and  
tipped more to the left. 2/D - 104

E. Right sides of T-I in line.

A-A = 1/4mm or nearly so:

50C = 1 1/2mm, OBV\_no milling & stars drawn  
heavily to edge. 17/T - 124

(Reverse listed above), OBV\_light or partial milling,  
line thru T in LIBERTY to cap,  
REV\_little or no milling. 18/T - 125

50C = 2mm & high, C in 50C is recut, \*8-UE. 21/Y - 132

(Reverse listed above), stars all large and  
sharp, \*8-LH. 28/Y - 145

IV. Right side of I3 is further RIGHT than right side of T3.

A. Left side of I centered under T.

A-A just touch, 50C = 2mm. 10/L - 114

A-A = 1/2mm, 50C = 2mm. 22/AA - 135

A-A = 3/4mm:

50C = 1 1/2mm, \*1-C, 7-UE. 21/Z - 133

(Reverse listed above), \*1-LH, 7-LE. 2/Z - 134

B. I centered under right side of T.

A-A = 1/4mm or nearly so:

50C = 1mm & high, \*1-LE, 7-B, 8-UH, 13-UE. 6/I - 109

(Reverse listed above), \*1-UE, 7-C, 8-UH, 13-B,  
point of \*7 touches segment. 7/I - 110

50C = 2mm & high with 5 not tipped, \*1-LE, 7-LE,  
8-UH, 13-LH. 3/E - 105

(Reverse listed above), \*1-LE, 7-UE,  
8-UE, 13-C. 12/E - 116

50C - 2mm & low, \*1-B, 7-UE, 8-LH, 13-UH. 23/AB - 136

A-A - 1/2mm or nearly so:

50C - 2mm & centered, \*1-LE, 7-B, 8-UH, 13-LE, break  
in base of 8 with small piece missing. 20/X - 130

(Reverse listed above), \*1-C, 7-UE, 8-UE, 13-C, nearly  
all stars recut, especially 7, 11 & 12. 21/X - 131

C. Right side of T and left side of I in line.

A-A - 1/2mm or nearly so and 50C - 1 1/4mm & high:

Point of \*7 touches segment,  
\*1-UE, 7-C, 8-UH, 13-B. 7/J - 111

Very large C, AT in STATES joined at base, &  
ED in UNITED very close at base,  
\*1-LH, 7-UH, 8-C, 13-UH. 8/K - 112

(Same OBV & REV), with stars drawn and  
OBV cracked. 8/K - 112a

(Reverse listed above), \*1-LE, 7-UE, 8-C, 13-LE,  
with curved die crack on OBV. 9/K - 113

(Reverse listed above), \*1-UE, 7-C,  
8-LH, 13-UH. 15/K - 149

C in 50C less than 1/2mm from stem,  
(Obverse listed above). 15/P - 120

50C - 1 3/4mm & high. 27/AF - 142

50C - 2mm, stripe 6 entirely solid. 11/M - 115

A-A - 3/4mm:

50C - 1mm, jagged crack in lowest curl &  
die crack at base of 182 in date. 19/U - 126



(Reverse listed above), tiny pointed serif at  
top right of 7 in date. 4/U - 127

50C - 1 1/2m & high, \*1-UH, 7-UE, 8-LE, 13-UH, with  
sharp dot above Eagle's beak. 27/AG - 143

(Reverse listed above), \*1-C, 7-UE, 8-UE, 13-C, nearly  
all stars recut, especially 7, 11 & 12. 21/AG - 148

50C - 1 3/4mm, large & high, tiny pointed serif at  
top right of 7 in date, \*1-LH. 4/F - 106

(Reverse listed above), stars large,  
stars & milling sharp, \*1-UE. 28/F - 144

JRCS #17

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WALTER continued from page 8

VI. Huge "cud" destroying NITE. To date I have seen  
three including the Bugert coin.

On Bill Fivaz's "retarded" 1834 half dime: this is an  
early die state of Valentine-5, publicized in several of  
Bower's catalogues in the 1970s. The obverse was later  
reground, eliminating most traces of the "backward" (rotated  
180°) 3, but not affecting the die chip within the 8. I find  
no evidence of a date logotype prior to 1837.

Walter Breen

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PRYOR continued from page 21

Chain cent and then admire the handsome Draped Bust Miss  
Liberty and you think to yourself, "My, she has matured a bit,  
hasn't she?"

I look forward to collecting more varieties of the early  
silver coins, and learning to attribute them so I can cherry  
pick a few nice specimens at the shows I attend. The JRCS and  
the John Reich Journal are fantastic educational tools for  
collectors like myself and I wish them a long and prosperous  
existence.

Douglas Pryor

INVERTED 3 continued from page 12

I would also like to mention that of the six 1834 Valentine-5's I have seen that three of them were definitely struck in a concave/convex manner: i.e., convex on the obverse and concave on the reverse. I do not know if this has a lot of significance. I have not noticed much of this "dishing" effect on other Capped Bust half dimes. Michael M. Hall

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1796 B-4a continued from page 19

resist the flow of metal, bifurcation will result."

I agree, the so-called unbifurcated variety is really not a variety at all. The B-4a, die state, may exist (I use the word 'may' only because I have never seen one even pictured) only because minting conditions were just right to prevent bifurcation from occurring. Since early minting processes were crude by most standards, undersized planchets, or an oversized collar would result in more opportunities for bifurcation to occur, either limited to a few or to many letters (i.e., in varying degrees).

In any event I don't believe that the unbifurcated B-4a should be listed as a separate variety since the same die without the engraver's modification produced both notched and unnotched lettering. Michael M. Hall

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1799 B-22 continued from page 20

counted more than once. Also, many, perhaps half or more, are sold outside of auctions. Of the 22 1799 B-22's that I have, only 12 were bought at auction.

In conclusion, this variety is much less rare than first thought. I would rate it Rarity-5, and probably low R-5.

If we take all of the varieties and their rarities, as listed by Bolender for Bust Dollars, we come up with a survival rate of about 4%. If indeed the survival rate is around 8%, as others have surmised, then there would be about 100,000 to 150,000 Bust Dollars extant. David Krofta



## MEMBERS MARKETPLACE

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SEARCHING for pristine copy of auction catalogue: Lester Merkin - The Al C. Overton Reference Collection of Bust Half Dollar Varieties, June 15, 1974. John L. Gomer Suite D  
33445 American River Drive  
Sacramento, California 95864

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AUCTION Two copies of the 1970 Revised Edition, Second Printing, Al C. Overton book Early Half Dollar Die Varieties

No. 1 has notes in pencil on some pages about rarity and price of selected varieties; cover is folded and patched with tape where torn.

No. 2 is in pristine condition. It has been wrapped in plastic since receipt by me.

Bids must be received by March 9, 1987.

Robert E. O'Brien  
6051 Misty Arch Run  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

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PRICE LIST A Bust Half Nut wants to sell some of his choice EF and AU early quarters and dimes. Serious collectors should request a list of the series they collect from:

G. Schertz  
P.O. Box 8111  
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

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WANTED for some of our new members. Copies of Vol.1 No.1 of the JR Journal. There are no more copies available from the Society and we are still getting requests. - Editor

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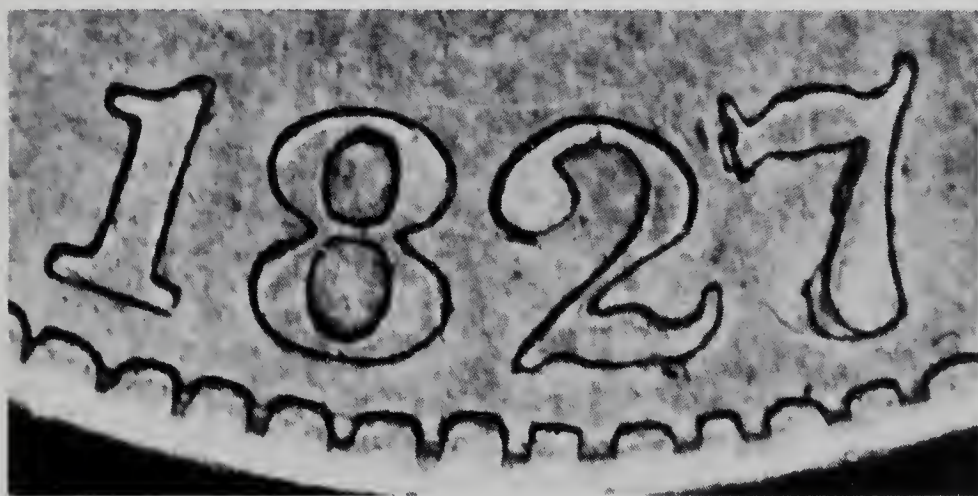
WANTED a copy of the R. Duphorne book, The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States.

Harvey Samuels, Jr.  
P.O. Box 1312  
Mansfield, Louisiana 71052

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## 1827/7/???

Back in 1964 I bought a Fine 1827 dime with a curved projection, or remains of another numeral punchmark, to the left of the base of the 7 in the date. The variety is JR-1 in the "Dime Book," and is rated Rarity-2, a fairly common coin. My discovery piece, because of the grade, was not clear enough to be sure of what the projection was. I have showed it to a lot of people and there has been speculation as to whether or not it could be the remnant of a 3, 5 or 6.



Another coin then showed up in Coin World's "Collector's Clearinghouse." I believe there were two early dimes pictured, and one of them showed the projection. The amazing part is that the coin had

been submitted for another reason, which escapes me, and the "unknown recutting" was not noticed or mentioned. I contacted Coin World and they forwarded my letter to the coin's owner. I informed him of what I knew and he promised to send pictures of his coin. Nothing ever showed up and I forgot about it.

I found a second piece in 1981. It was a choice EF specimen and the earliest die state, known to me, of 1827 JR-1. With this coin my coauthors and I were still uncertain, but leaning more toward a third 7. In the book we merely stated, "Early obverse strikes show additional recutting left of the base of 7." So what is it; 1827/7/7 or 1827/7/??? Here are a couple of photos, courtesy of Jules Reiver. What do you think?



David J. Davis

*Photos by J. Reiver*



